

Dear Chairman Powell and Members of the FCC,

I urge you not only to reject sweeping new deregulation of the media, but to roll back the disastrous media deregulation that has occurred over the last 20 years.

I think it's obvious to any objective observer that media deregulation has done nothing but deteriorate the quality of debate in this nation - debate that is absolutely necessary if the United States is to remain a strong, healthy democracy.

Without strong media regulation, a one-sided debate has risen in this nation, one that ignores concerns of working families, those without jobs or healthcare, people eager to find peaceful, cooperative solutions to world problems, and a host of others. Instead, we are daily spoon-fed the talking points of divisive political opportunists, well-funded special interests, and the media elite.

Recently, I heard a deregulation apologist claim that deregulation serves to promote "better" programming. That's utter nonsense. Under his formulation "better" equals "more expensive." But let's face it, the movies "Ishtar" and "Hudson Hawk" were more expensive than most other movies made at the time. Were they better? Hardly.

Better, to my mind, means programming that addresses local concerns as well as national. Better means programming that challenges the mind and excites the imagination, even if it doesn't dazzle the eyes. Better means programming that offers a variety of viewpoints, and allows the citizens of a lively democracy to decide for themselves.

Better means, in a word, diversity. Choices. Options. If only a handful of powerful, insulated conglomerates produce only a handful of mass marketed programs, there is less chance to find "better" than if there were thousands of programs produced by thousands of sources.

Therefore I urge you to halt the FCC rule changes scheduled to take effect on June 2, 2003. What's more, I urge you to make a priority of rolling back the disastrous deregulation scheme that has poisoned our political debate for the past two decades.

Sincerely,

David H. Redemann  
2856 N. 56th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210  
dave@execpc.com